

NJLINCS-Canine Influenza Virus Update

The NJDOH has received 3 reports of suspected Canine influenza virus (CIV) outbreaks in animal shelters and boarding kennels in Essex, Hudson, and Morris Counties.

Veterinarians and operators of licensed animal facilities (kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds) are asked to be on the alert for this disease and prepared to respond in the event they identify a case or an outbreak.

CIV was first recognized in racing greyhounds in Florida in January 2004 and has since been documented in 30 states, including New Jersey. This highly contagious virus causes a clinical syndrome in dogs that mimics 'kennel cough.' If the virus enters a kennel setting, virtually 100 percent of exposed dogs become infected and nearly 80 percent develop clinical signs. Although most dogs will have a milder form of CIV and recover without complications, some may develop severe pneumonia, which can be life-threatening. It should be noted that there is no evidence that CIV can be transmitted from dogs to humans.

Attached is guidance document for veterinarians that contains information on CIV laboratory testing available at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

Veterinarians who are overseeing disease control at animal facilities should review the ventilation, sanitation and infection control practices with operators of these facilities. In the event of an outbreak, infected animals should be isolated for 14 days and treated under the supervision of the supervising veterinarian. Those exposed to the virus would need to be quarantined for 14 days and observed for signs of disease.

Health Officers receiving CIV reports should have the implicated facility inspected and assist management and the supervising veterinarian with the implementation of control measures. Large outbreaks may necessitate closing the facility to adequately isolate sick animals and quarantine those exposed to the virus. Please also report cases to the NJDOH, Veterinary Public Health Unit via phone (609)-826-4872 or email: zoonoticrn@doh.state.nj.us.